

Solar Bulletin

Publisher:

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VARIABLE STAR OBSERVERS — SOLAR DIVISION
540 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE
RAMSEY, NEW JERSEY, U.S.A.



EDITOR: C. H. HOSSFELD

Volume 22 Number 4

April 1966

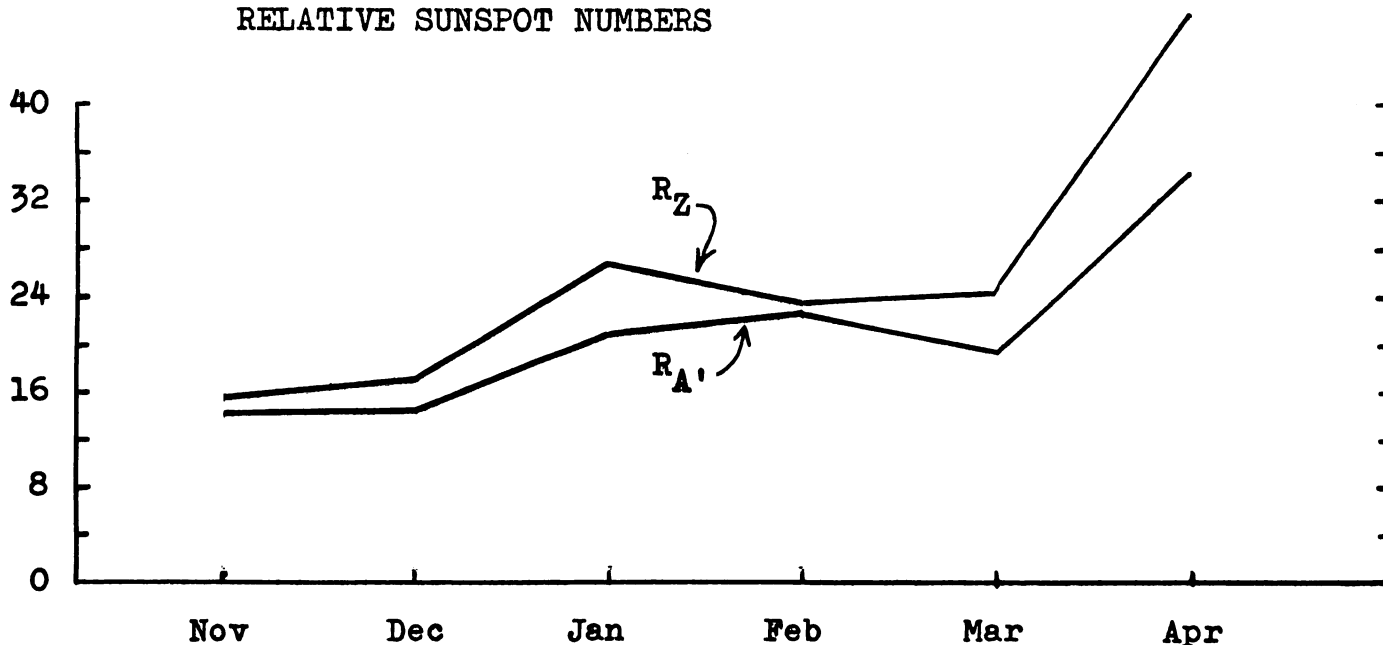
SOLAR ACTIVITY DURING APRIL

There was a notable increase in sunspot activity during April. The mean of the American sunspot number rose from 19.4 in March to 34.6 this month. There were no spotless days in April. This is the first month of the new cycle to lack spotless days. The most recent previous month that lacked spotless days occurred during the old cycle in May 1963.

The largest sunspot group seen during April was a large beta-gamma group that reached the central meridian on the 3rd. Magnetic polarity drawings of this group are shown on page two. Ionospheric disturbances of strong intensity associated with this group were recorded by Solar Division observers. Later in the month another intense ionospheric event was recorded starting at 1232 UT on the 11th. This was followed by several lesser events during the next few days.

There were 10 groups with lifetimes greater than 2 days during April but only 5 such groups occurred in March. There were 4 spotless days in March compared to none this month.

RECENT TREND OF
RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS



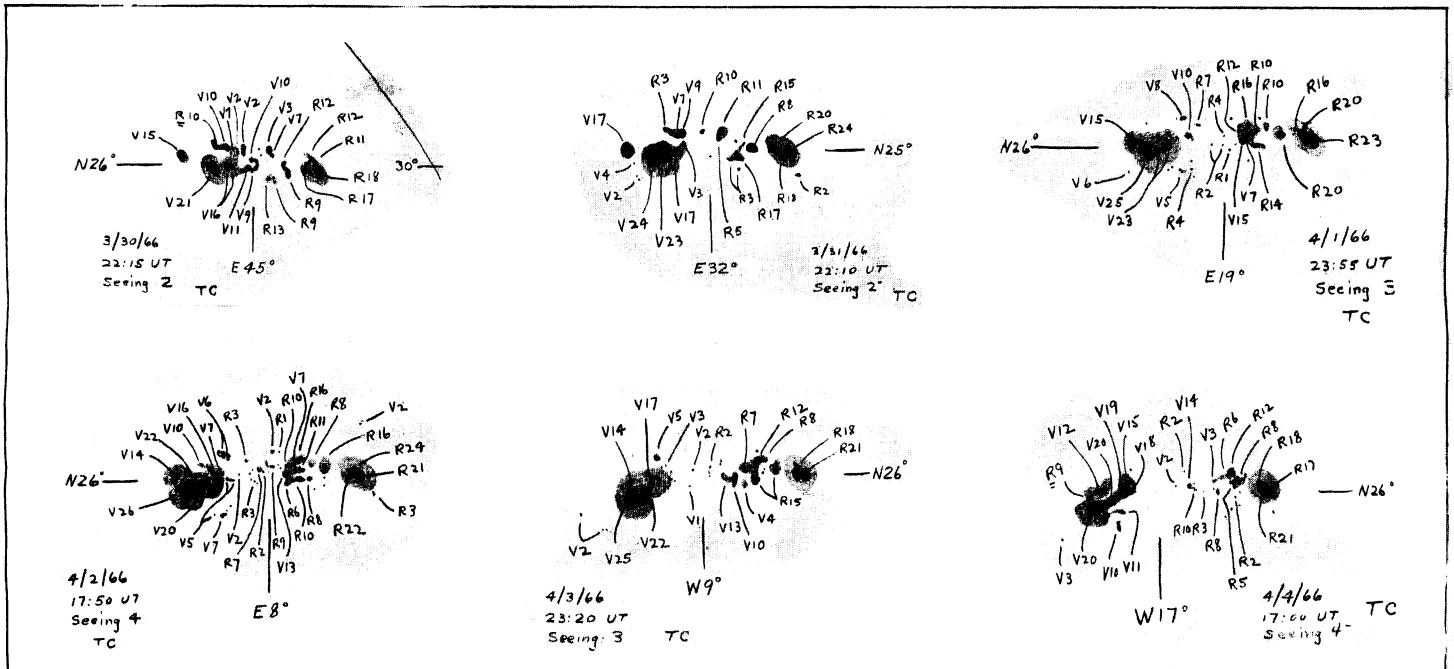
MAY 10 1966

AMERICAN (R_A) AND ZURICH (R_Z) RELATIVE SUNSPOT NUMBERS, APRIL 1966

day	R_A	R_Z	day	R_A	R_Z
1	32	64	16	28	35
2	37	58	17	28	40
3	34	74	18	29	40
4	49	74	19	16	24
5	40	55	20	42	37
6	47	59	21	38	40
7	49	70	22	42	56
8	55	65	23	58	69
9	36	47	24	51	58
10	26	37	25	47	56
11	19	25	26	34	54
12	22	27	27	22	40
13	16	24	28	22	40
14	22	29	29	33	48
15	31	29	30	33	52

April mean $R_A = 34.6$

April mean $R_Z = 47.5$



Magnetic polarity drawings of the beta-gamma group that crossed the central meridian on 3 April. These were made by Thomas Cragg with the magnetograph at the 150 foot tower telescope at Mount Wilson, California.